

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 01229 241604Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /062 W

-----102316 250242Z /73-65

R 241230Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1072

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 619

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 1229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, GB, OAU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO DEPT, I LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT  
AMBASSADOR YOUNG MAY BE PLANNING UNDERTAKE VISIT TO CERTAIN FRANCO-  
PHONE AFRICAN STATES IN NEAR FUTURE. IF THIS VISIT IS NOW TAKING  
SHAPE, I STRONGLY URGE THAT LIBREVILLE BE INCLUDED ON HIS  
ITINERARY FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. PRESIDENT BONGO IS CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF OAU. ON THIS  
GROUND ALONE, HE WOULD BE VERY UNLIKELY TO UNDERSTAND A  
VISIT TO FRANCOPHONE STATES THAT DID NOT INCLUDE LIBREVILLE. DEPT  
IS ALREADY AWARE OF BONGO'S PUBLIC CHIDING OF USG FOR SUPPOSED  
LACK OF CONSULTATION WITH OAU CHAIRMAN AT TIME OF PRES CARTER'S  
VISIT TO NIGERIA. CRITICISM, AS DEPT WILL RECALL, ALSO MADE RE-  
FERENCE TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG. TO IGNORE HIM THIS TIME AROUND WOULD  
ALMOST CERTAINLY BE BADLY INTERPRETED.

2. BONGO IS PRESIDENT OF ESSENTIALLY MODERATE AFRICAN STATE  
AND HAS BEEN CLOSER TO OUR VIEWS ON SUCH ISSUES AS SOUTHERN  
AFRICA THAN MANY OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. IF WE WISH BUILD ON  
OUR RELATIONS WITH MODERATE, GABON, WHICH HAS IN EFFECT ALREADY  
SAID IT WOULD BE PLEASED WITH A VISIT FROM AMBASSADOR YOUNG,  
IS GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN. GABON, FOR EXAMPLE, AD EPT KNOWS,  
IS AS CONCERNED WITH CUBAN/SOVIET PRESENCE IN AFRICA AS WE ARE,  
AND HAS EVEN HAD COURAGE TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

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C. GABON IS CURRENTLY MEMBER OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND  
WILL BE NEXT YEAR. SINCE WE ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE ASKING  
COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SEE THINGS OUR WAY ON VARIETY OF MATTERS, IT  
CAN ONLY BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE FOR PERMANENT MEMBER OF COUNCIL  
TO VISIT HERE, AND CONVERSELY TO OUR POTENTIAL DISADVANTAGE IF  
VISIT TO NEARBY FRANCOPHONE STATES DOES NOT INCLUDE LIBREVILLE.  
IN THIS REGARD, BONGO MAY IN A SENSE BE MORE USEFUL TO US AFTER HIS

TENURE AS OAU CHAIRMANSHIP IS FINISHED BECAUSE HE WILL BE RELEASED FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF HAVING TO TEMPER HIS VIEWS AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR ALL AFRICA AND THUS POSSIBLE WILLING TO SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES IN TERMS MORE SUPPORTIVE OF OUR OWN POSITION.

D. USG DEVOTES FEW RESOURCES TO GABON. WE THEREFORE MUST RELY ON MORE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMACY TAILED TO MUTUAL CONCERNS AND INTERESTS. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE ASSET NOW IN BONGO'S FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP WITH PRES CARTER AS RESULT HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH HIM. I HOPE WE WOULD NOT CONSCIOUSLY ERODE THAT FEELING BY OMITTING LIBREVILLE FROM ITINERARY OF CABINET OFFICER WHO IS PERCEIVED HERE AS BEING CLOSE TO PRESIDENT.

3. FINALLY, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO ASK FOR BONGO'S HELP ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO US (MOST RECENTLY WAS REQUEST FOR REFUELING OF C-141S EN ROUTE TO ZAIRE). MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, HE HAS COME THROUGH. WE HAVE BEEN LESS ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO HIS REQUESTS. A VISIT HERE BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG AT THIS TIME WOULD BE ONE IMPORTANT WAY OF SAYING "THANK YOU" AND WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED BY BONGO IN THESE TERMS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 may 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PEPR, GB, OAU, (YOUNG, ANDREW)  
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